

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR  
JANICE K. BREWER



GOVERNOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
2012-2013

APPLICATIONS MUST BE **RECEIVED** BY  
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012 AT 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE 101  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, 85007  
PHONE: (602) 542-3426 • FAX: (602) 542-3423  
EMAIL: [CFRIEDMAN@AZ.GOV](mailto:CFRIEDMAN@AZ.GOV)

# What is the Governor's Youth Commission?

## PURPOSE

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) works to address issues that affect youth in Arizona which may result in making recommendations to the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

## MISSION

The mission of the Governor's Youth Commission is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning and to increase awareness of community issues affecting youth.

## MEMBERS, MEETINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Governor's Youth Commission is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population, and is composed of members from different parts of the state. Each year, members work together on projects that impact youth across Arizona.

Quarterly meetings are held on Saturdays from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each meeting may feature four different components:

- Trainings presented by expert instructors on vital leadership development skills
- Work on special projects and initiatives for the year
- Service projects related to the various challenges faced by youth in Arizona
- Reflection on past accomplishments and experiences

Commissioners are also required to work on committees as determined by the staff and members depending on the initiatives for the year.

## Eligibility

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who are sophomores or juniors during the 2012-2013 school year.

Please note that the GYC is seeking applicants who represent the diverse and unique nature of Arizona's communities. **This year will be very competitive. We are only appointing approximately 10 new members and priority will be given to those applicants in rural communities.**

## Agreements

Being a commissioner requires a high degree of commitment. Before applying, please make sure that you are able to dedicate a sufficient amount of time to the organization.

Commissioners:

- Attend four meetings a year held primarily at the State Capitol.
- Contribute to the planning and execution of the GYC's projects and initiatives.
- Actively participate in committee meetings and conference calls.
- Participate in service projects.
- Check their e-mail on a daily basis.

- Provide their own transportation to and from meetings.
- Serve as a role model and adhere to a high code of conduct.
- Serve as a liaison to other youth.

In addition to the above requirements, each Commissioner must also have an adult mentor or advisor who can help and support as needed. Mentors or advisors can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent. During the school year, there may be opportunities for Commissioners and their mentors to attend an event together.

## What are some of the GYC's accomplishments?

In the past, the Governor's Youth Commissioners:

- Created a website [www.youthservingarizona.org](http://www.youthservingarizona.org) to showcase their projects, list resources and allow the public to access registration forms.
- Produced a PSA to encourage youth groups from across the state to register their community based service projects for Global Youth Service Day, April 20 -22, 2012.
- Planned and hosted Global Youth Service Day of Training at Phoenix College Downtown. The event drew almost 100 participants from statewide municipal youth advisory groups and school groups. Workshops focused on encouraging all youth groups to develop and implement service-learning projects to improve Arizona communities.
- Wrote and produced a PSA in partnership with Kaity's Way and Mesa Public Education TV to raise awareness of teen dating violence.
- Facilitated a workshop entitled, Underage Drinking in Arizona: Risks, Trends & Resources at the Arizona Students Against Destructive Decisions Conference.
- Partnered with community-based organizations to host a student viewing and dialogue on the education reform documentary *Waiting for Superman*. The GYC engaged Arizona youth and provided a space for youth voice in the dialogue regarding education reform in the United States.
- Played a role integral to the launch of *Draw the Line*, a statewide media campaign directed at changing adult attitudes and behaviors towards underage drinking.
- Learned how to make policy recommendations and how to approach youth issues through expert speakers from Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy, the Governor's Division for Children, the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Children's Action Alliance.
- Released a policy report, "*Addressing the Issues of Today's Youth*," on June 17, 2009.
- Awarded the 2008 Youth Education & Enforcement – Outstanding Enforcement award from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Mother's Against Drunk Driving.
- Hosted Youth Leadership Day, an event attended by nearly 250 members representing over 30 different youth organizations each year for a day of civic participation. Youth attended skill development workshops and were informed of leadership opportunities.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMMISSIONER?

### **Youth Voice**

*Naomi Jing, Chandler*

“Being a commissioner requires initiative, reliability, a sense of teamwork and a strong set of communication skills; each person is expected to step up to the plate and offer innovative ideas. As part of the GYC, members are not only expected to dream big, but also find ways to implement them one step at a time. The GYC has confirmed the view that really youth can make a difference.”

### **Service Work**

*Carolyn Malone, Mesa*

“I believe in service to my school, community and state and I know that the GYC has a strong emphasis on service. Being a member has encouraged me to actively participate in and be part of the solutions to issues that affect teens and their families. Personally, being a part of this organization has helped me to develop my leadership, problem solving and people skills. Also, participating has helped reinforce the importance of young people’s involvement in the political process.”

### **Community Outreach**

*Suma Yarrapureddy, Scottsdale*

“As a member of the GYC, I am able to play a bigger role in raising public awareness about the causes that I support. This year, I chose juvenile justice as my focus group and I have learned so much from working with the wonderful people in the group. The commission has given me a bigger voice in my community. I have learned a lot about our government and I would like to continue to do so. I would like to make my community and the state a better place.”

### **Networking Opportunities**

*Erika Aguirre, Coolidge*

“In the past year I have dedicated myself by sharing my thoughts and opinions by working side by side with the other members in the education committee, traveled from Coolidge to as many meetings I could and volunteered with the group service projects.”

### **Changing Arizona**

*GYC Class of 2011 - 2012*

“Together as Arizona’s Youth, we can help build a better future for Arizona!”

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Governor's Youth Commission  
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## **Application Process**

The GYC recruitment process consists of an application and interview. All youth who are eligible to apply must follow the application instructions below. Finalists will be invited to interview on June 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. Decisions are tentatively scheduled to be made by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

A complete application consists of:

- Membership Application: Personal Information (Page 7).
- Completed Questionnaire (Page 7).
- Resume detailing current and past community and school involvement (limit to one page).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter **MUST** be from a teacher, faculty member or youth group leader. The second letter **MUST** be from your mentor, which can include a teacher, counselor, youth group leader, or parent.

Applications should not be in a binder, report cover or folder. Please use a staple or paper clip to hold your application together.

Complete applications can be mailed, emailed, faxed or delivered in person to:

Carla Friedman  
Youth Program Development Director  
Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families  
State Capitol, Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street, Suite 101  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Email: [cfriedman@az.gov](mailto:cfriedman@az.gov)  
Phone: (602) 542-3426  
Fax: (602) 542-3423

**Applications MUST be RECEIVED by Friday, May 4, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**  
*(Please call or email to confirm that we have received your application.)*

If you require any additional information please contact Carla Friedman at (602) 542-3426, or through e-mail at [cfriedman@az.gov](mailto:cfriedman@az.gov).

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*Governor's Youth Commission*  
*2012-2013*

**Membership Application: Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your grade during the 2012-2013 school year?: \_\_\_\_\_

School's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Advisor/Mentor Information (one letter of recommendation must be from this individual)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How is this person related/associated with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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*2012-2013*

**Questionnaire**

Part I

The first meeting that new GYC members will be required to attend is tentatively scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** Please confirm that you will be able to attend this meeting. If you cannot attend, please state the reason(s) why.

Part II

Please respond to the following questions. Your answers must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Please DO NOT include any additional information (newspaper articles, photographs, etc.).

1. What interests you about becoming a GYC member?
2. What can you contribute as a member of the GYC? How will your background or experiences add to our mission?
3. Describe in detail a time during your life when you overcame significant adversity in a team environment (i.e. school work group, in a club, etc.).
4. What other school or community activities and organizations will you be involved with during the 2012 – 2013 school year?
5. What do you think is the most critical issue facing youth in Arizona today and what kinds of activities would you suggest to help address this issue?

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**Governor's Youth Commission  
Application for 2012-2013  
Signature Page**

**GYC Applicant**

If selected to serve on the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2012-2013 year, I am fully aware of the Agreements of Membership and will abide by these Agreements at all times. I am also aware that my participation as a member of the GYC is an important commitment for which I will devote significant time and energy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian**

I hereby provide my consent for my child to serve, if selected, as a member of the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2012-2013 year. I understand that this is an important commitment and I will support my youth's full participation in the Commission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Adult Advisor/Mentor**

As mentor, I hereby pledge to guide and support the abovementioned youth's full participation, if selected, as a member of the Governor's Youth Commission for the 2012-2013 year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date